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Shibir sweeps Ducusu polls in historic shift

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For the first time since Bangladesh's independence, a panel backed by Islami Chhatra Shibir secured a thumping victory in Ducusu polls on Tuesday, clinching 23 of 28 central posts in a dramatic shift in campus politics.

The Shibir-backed "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" panel won the top three positions by a landslide: Abu Shadik Kayem as vice president; SM Farhad as general secretary; and Mohiuddin Khan as assistant general secretary.

Thousands of students cast their votes in the Ducusu and hall union elections, held amid festivity and excitement after a six-year hiatus.

Shadik bagged 14,042 votes, far ahead of rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed Abidul Islam Khan, who polled 5,708, according to results declared yesterday morning at Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan.

Independent candidate Shameem Hossain came third with 3,883 votes, followed by fellow independent Umama Fatema with 3,389, and Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad nominee Abdul Kader with 1,103.

Shadik, immediate past president of Shibir's DU unit, and Farhad, who is currently holding the post, were both active in last year's student-led July uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina's fall on August 5.

Farhad stormed to the GS post with 10,794 votes, leaving JCD-backed Shaikh Tanvir Baree Hamim trailing with 5,283. Left alliance candidate Meghmalla Bosu bagged 4,949, independent Arafat Chowdhury got 4,044, and Boishommo Birodhi-backed Abu Baker Mojumdar secured 2,131.

In the AGS race, Shibir's Mohiuddin Khan won with 11,772 votes, well ahead of JCD's Tanvir Al Hadi Mayed, who polled 5,064.

Shibir leaders, who had been virtually banned from Dhaka University following HM Ershad's fall in 1990, began appearing openly on campus just a month after last year's uprising. It was then that Shadik and Farhad publicly revealed themselves as Shibir's DU unit president and general secretary.

POST-RESULT STATEMENTS

At a briefing after the results, Shadik said, "This is not a victory of any camp, nor of Shadik or Farhad. It is essentially the victory of the students. From today until I complete my duties, every student of Dhaka University will serve as my adviser. If I make mistakes or take a wrong step, I urge the students to correct me immediately, even if through criticism. That will help me stay on the right path."

Meanwhile, JCD candidate Abid rejected the results in a Facebook

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RESULTS

VICE PRESIDENT

Abu Shadik Kayem
(Shibir-backed panel)
14,042 votes

Abidul Islam Khan
(JCD-backed panel)
5,708

GENERAL SECRETARY

SM Farhad
(Shibir-backed panel)
10,794 votes

Shaikh Tanvir Baree
Hamim
(JCD-backed panel)
5,283

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

Mohiuddin Khan
(Shibir-backed panel)
11,772 votes

Tanvir Al Hadi Mayed
(JCD-backed panel)
5,064

Shibir-backed panel wins in 17 out of 18 halls

Shadik: 45% votes, Farhad: 34% votes

Shibir panel gets 23, independents 4, leftist 1



Abu Shadik Kayem, SM Farhad, and Mohiuddin Khan of the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed "Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote" gesture triumphantly at Dhaka University's Senate Bhavan yesterday morning, after winning the top three posts in the long-awaited Ducusu elections.

PHOTO: STAR

Ducusu debacle a rude awakening for BNP

Say political analysts

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's defeat by a huge margin in the Ducusu polls has sent a strong message to the BNP, just five months ahead of the national election, political analysts say.

Chhatra Dal, considered to be one of the major student bodies which had earlier won Ducusu polls in 1990 during the anti-Ershad movement, failed to secure any of the 28 posts in this year's election.

Meanwhile, the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel swept the DU election, winning 23 of 28 posts -- the student body's biggest success since the country's independence.

The analysts say the loss ahead of other major student union elections warrants drastic re-organisation of the JCD, which traditionally plays a vital role during national elections.

Political observers cited organisational weaknesses, prolonged absence from the campus, the age gap between leaders and general students, and ineffective hall-level campaigning as the key reasons behind the defeat.

"This is not merely a student union election -- it carries a powerful message for the upcoming national polls," said Prof Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research.

"General students could not trust BNP and Chhatra Dal. Many believed that if they voted for Chhatra Dal and helped them win, it would ultimately strengthen the BNP -- something



"BNP had built strong momentum, but the loss in the Ducusu polls has significantly undercut it. The setback has left many party activists disheartened. The scale of Chhatra Dal's defeat is deeply disappointing."

A senior BNP leader speaking anonymously

they did not want, as the party was already involved in various unethical activities. This fear worked against them."

The Ducusu polls were held after last year's mass uprising that toppled the Awami League regime. With Chhatra League absent from the contest, the biggest beneficiary turned out to be Shibir.

For BNP, the failure of Chhatra Dal not only hurt its image among students but also raised new challenges for the party at the national level, said party leaders and experts.

Political analysts said if BNP fails to take lessons from this defeat, the consequences will

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Shibir's quiet groundwork pays off

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Patience, discipline, and long-term planning turned the tide for Islami Chhatra Shibir, delivering a Ducusu triumph once considered a pipe dream for the student front of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Students and teachers believe Shibir's panel, Oikyaboddho Shikkharthi Jote, benefited from its role in the July uprising, the sympathy it garnered from repression by Chhatra League activists, and years of focused organising in female dormitories.

During the Awami League's tenure, Shibir had to stay away from public activities. It instead operated discreetly, embedding activists within various social and cultural organisations. With access to dormitories restricted, many members used rented houses around the campus as alternative operational bases.

Though the organisation was never officially banned, its leaders and activists were beaten and expelled from dormitories during the AL rule.

Following the July uprising, Shibir activists took the lead in forming hall-wise unofficial "disciplinary" or "reform" committees, a move that helped them gain influence over students across the campus.

The committees engaged with the residential students by offering personal assistance and taking initiatives such as installing water purifiers, setting up libraries in guestrooms and mosques, and introducing motorcycle and bicycle washing stations.

They also identified the students who were involved with the now-banned Chhatra League and forced them out of the dorms either by creating mobs or with the help

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Army deployed in Kathmandu to restore order

Soldiers patrol streets, guard parliament

AGENCIES

Soldiers guarded Nepal's parliament and patrolled deserted streets yesterday amid a curfew in the capital Kathmandu, after two days of deadly anti-corruption protests forced Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to resign.

The upheaval in the poor Himalayan nation was unleashed by a social media ban that was announced last week, but was rolled back after 19 people were killed on Monday as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to control crowds.

The death toll from the protests had risen to 25 by yesterday, Nepal's health ministry said, while 633 were injured.

Nepal's army said that relevant parties were coordinating to tackle the situation after the protests and resolve the issue. Media also said preparations were being made for authorities and protesters to hold talks, without giving details.

Most of the protesters were young people voicing frustration at the government's perceived failure to

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Nepali army personnel patrol the road near the Singha Durbar office complex that houses the prime minister's office and other ministries during a curfew in the capital Kathmandu yesterday, after two days of deadly anti-corruption protests claimed 25 lives and forced prime minister KP Sharma Oli to resign.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Mob violence: no end in sight

Two more men beaten to death in Dhaka

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Despite repeated assurances of tougher action and the interim government's zero-tolerance stance, incidents of mob violence show no sign of stopping.

Even warnings by security forces appear to have little deterrent effect. Within a week, mob attacks have taken place at a shrine and twice in the capital.

Experts have raised questions over law and order, as well as the interim government's ability and willingness to contain the menace.

In the latest incident, two men were beaten to death in separate attacks in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. The deceased were identified as Sujan alias Babul, 17, an assistant to a sanitary mechanic, and Hanif Hawlader, 22, a helper of a transport vehicle.

Police claimed both were muggers and had four cases each filed against them. Their families, however, denied the allegations.

Sujan's elder brother, Md Sojib, told The Daily Star, "My brother used to spend time with his friends in the neighbourhood. He wasn't a mugger, and he worked as an assistant."



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